

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14

A-01 M-02 DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CCO-00 DRC-01 /128 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9179

INFO AMCONSUL STUTTGART PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AEMR CASC CY LE

SUBJ: DISSATISFACTION OF CYPRUS EVACUEES IN LEBANON

1. AT END OF FIRST LONG AFTERNOON AND EVENING DEALING WITH CYPRUS EVACUEES IN LEBANON, POST SUBMITS THIS SUMMARY OF THEIR FRAME OF MIND AND OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO FIELD THEIR REQUESTS, REASONABLE AND OTHERWISE. DEPT MAY FIND THIS USEFUL IN FIELDING PRESS OR OTHER INQUIRIES.

2. SOME EVACUEES HAVE BEEN MOST GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE US NAVY PROVIDED IN REMOVING THEM FROM DANGER. OTHERS ARE LESS CONTENT. OBVIOUSLY THIS TO BE EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW EVACUEES' FATIGUE AND THE SHOCK OF THE WAR IN WHICH THEY FOUND THEMSELVES TRAPPED.

3. MANY EVACUEES UNHAPPY THEY BROUGHT TOWARDS EAST INSTEAD WEST. SOME CLAIM THEY LEARNED THAT LEBANON WAS DESTINATION ONLY MINUTES BEFORE HELICOPTER PICKUP. MANY ASK WHY THEY NOT PLACED ON MILITARY AIRLIFT AND FLOWN HOME. (THIS ATTITUDE POSSIBLY PROMPTED BY RAF AIRLIFT OF UK CITIZENS

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TO LONDON). BECAUSE OF PECULIARITIES OF AIRFARE STRUCTURE

AND HIGH COST OF AIR TICKETS PURCHASED HERE (IN VIEW LARGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IATA AGREED EXCHANGE AND PRESENT EXCHANGE RATE), SOME EVACUEES HAVE BEEN INFORMED THEY MUST PAY UP TO \$300 MORE PER TICKET ABOVE PREPAID RETURN FROM NICOSIA. SOME EVACUEES INSIST USG SHOULD PAY DIFFERENCE, SINCE DECISION TO BRING THEM "WRONG WAY" WAS AT US OPTION. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, PROVIDED ALL THE "SCHOOL SOLUTION" ANSWERS, EXPLAINING PHILOSOPHY OF "SAFEHAVEN", NEED TO GET THEM OUT OF LINE OF FIRE TO CLOSEST POST, ETC., ETC. WE ALSO WORKING WITH AIRLINES ON FARES AND AT LEAST ONE US CARRIER (PAA) HAS CABLED FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS TO CAB RULES WHICH SHOULD REDUCE COSTS. HOWEVER, WE OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T SATISFIED THEM ALL.

4. SOME EVACUEES ARE EQUALLY INISISTENT USG RESPONSIBLE TO COMPENSATE THEM FOR MATERIAL LOSSES ON CYPRUS. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT IN VIEW NUMBER OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN CONVLICT QUESTION OF COMPENSATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROVE COMPLEX AND WILL NOT BE RESOLVED FOR MANY MONTHS OR YEARS, IF EVER. SUGGESTED WRITE TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA WHEN SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL FOR ADVICE REGARDING POSSIBLE CLAIMS AGAINST BELLIGERENTS.

5. MOST EVACUEES UNHAPPY THAT GOL COLLECTED PASSPORTS AT PIERSIDE. THIS DONE SO PROCESSING COULD BE COMPLETED AFTER EVACUEES REACHED COMFORT OF HOTEL. ALTERNATIVE WOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING IN LINE ON SHIP OR PIER FOR MANY MORE HOURS. PASSPORTS SHOULD BE RETURNED MOMENTARILY. SOME EVACUEES WILL BE FURTHER INCONVENIENCED BY NEED APPLY NEW PASSPORTS. GOL CANNOT ACCEPT PASSPORTS WITH ISRAELI VISAS, STAMPS, ETC. THUS WE MUST ISSUE SOME 50 NEW PASSPORTS TODAY, RETURN THEM TO LEBANESE IMMIGRATION AND OBTAIN LEBANESE VISAS ON THESE "CLEAN" PASSPORTS.

6. EVACUEES WHO LEFT HOMES WITH CYPRIOT POUNDS UNDERSTANDABLY UNHAPPY SINCE AT END OF DAY MARKET FOR SUCH CURRENCY EVAPORATED AND HOTELS NOT ACCEPTING FOR EXCHANGE.

7. MOST OF THIS WAVE OF DISCONTENT UNDERSTANDABLE AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORDEAL THESE EVACUEES HAVE UNDERGONE. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER FIELDING QUESTIONS FOR SOME TWO HOURS DURING GENERAL MEETING AT HOTEL, CONSULAR OFFICER BEGINNING TO FEEL A BIT PUNCHY HIMSELF. BELIEVE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENT DURING THIS MEETING.

8. ONE BRIGHT NOTE. SEVERAL EVACUEES HAD HIGHEST PRAISE FOR NICOSIA FSO SHELIA AUSTRIAN WHO ACCOMPANIED GROUP.

WE WERE INFORMED HER STRENGTH AND ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY
WERE INVALUABLE TO ALL.
GODLEY

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